

**-- ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus are disclosed for accumulating traffic information and distributing flow control information in a packet switching system. Traffic information is collected in multiple elements and indications of congestion and/or other types of information useful in determining traffic conditions are forwarded to collecting elements. The collecting elements manipulate the received indications and generate flow control messages which are sent to individual sending components. In one implementation, a switching element maintains for each destination a count of packets within itself which are addressed to the particular destination. Indications of this collected information are sent to collecting switching elements. These collecting elements accumulate the information received from multiple sources. The accumulated information is evaluated, and when a congestion condition is located or anticipated, then flow control messages are distributed to all, or a subset of, the packet sources. --

In re TURNER ET AL.  
Application No. 09/784,787

The Abstract as replaced herein fully complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Moreover, no new matter has been added with the amendment to the Abstract.

In view of the above amendment to the abstract, the application is considered in good and proper form for examination. Applicants believe that no fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee due associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 501430.

Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee due any under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and § 1.17 associated with this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501430. Furthermore, the Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefore, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,  
**The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams**

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By



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Kirk D. Williams, Reg. No. 42,229  
One of the Attorneys for Applicants  
CUSTOMER NUMBER 26327  
The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams  
1234 S. OGDEN ST.  
Denver, CO 80210  
303-282-0151 (telephone)  
303-778-0748 (facsimile)